

Salt Works



SALT STORAGE

- Use building with:
 - Roof and sides
 - Impervious flooring
 - Waterproof flooring
 - Sand bags and hay bales across entrance (if needed)
- If building not available, cover salt pile with a tarp
- Do not allow contaminated stormwater to leave the area
- Do not overfill bays



SALT HANDLING

- Mix sand and salt during good weather if possible
- Store in covered trucks or storage building/bin or a pile covered with a tarp
- Sweep mixing or loading area
- Place cleanup materials in storage structure or under covered salt pile.
- Cover truck bed and do not overfill (General Statue 20-116G)



SALT APPLICATION

- Apply only at recommended rates (standard is 250 lb./lane mile)
- Recover any reusable materials (good housekeeping)



EQUIPMENT CLEANUP

- Rinse equipment only in designated areas
- Apply rust inhibitor



Salt helps keep our *roadways* safe but can harm our *environment* when stored or used incorrectly.

- Runoff from salt storage yards can cause significant surface water and groundwater contamination.
- Once salt enters the water, it stays in solution and is not naturally removed.
- Salt can damage **water quality** and kill **aquatic life**.

How can YOU help?

SALT STORAGE

- Store salt, sand/salt mixtures, or salt brine away from any source of water (such as wells, reservoirs, streams, and ground-water supplies) or drainage systems.
- Place an impervious layer (asphalt, concrete, or impervious fabric) beneath all salt piles to prevent salt from leaching into the groundwater.
- Cover all salt piles, preferably with a permanent structure to eliminate contaminating area runoff. If a permanent structure is not available, cover salt pile with a tarp.
- Grade approaches to salt storage areas divert stormwater away area or place sand bags or hay bales across approaches to keep out stormwater.
- Do not overfill bays.

SITE-SPECIFIC DISCUSSION

- Evaluate storage areas
- Discuss handling & cleanup practices
- Do we need:
 - New Procedures
 - New Equipment
 - New Structures
 - More Training

SALT HANDLING

- Mix sand and salt, when possible, during good weather to reduce loss from rain and wind.
- After mixing and transfer, immediately sweep the mixing area and return any remaining material to a covered truck, storage building/bin or covered pile.
- Avoid spills during loading and unloading. If a spill occurs, sweep all spilled salt or salt/sand mixture back into the covered pile.
- Cover truck bed, and do not overfill.
(General Statute 20-116G)

SALT APPLICATION

- Apply at recommended rates.
- After spreading, return unused salt, sand/salt mixture or salt brine to the yard and offload in the appropriate storage area.
(good housekeeping)

EQUIPMENT CLEANUP

- Rinse salt from equipment in designated wash areas.
- If washing with detergent is necessary, capture wash water and discharge to a sanitary sewer, if allowed by local regulations.
- Apply rust inhibitor.

REFERENCES

For more information, contact
NCDOT State Road Maintenance Unit
Lonnie Watkins 919.733.3725

www.saltinstitute.org
www.fhwa.dot.gov